

BLM 3031 - ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Mineral Potential Classification System*

I Level of Potential

- O The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, and the lack of mineral occurrences do not indicate potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
- L The geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes indicate <u>low potential</u> for accumulation of mineral resources.
- M The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, and the reported mineral occurrences or valid geochemical/geophysical anomaly indicate moderate potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
- H The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, the reported mineral occurrences and/or valid geochemical/geophysical anomaly, and the known mines or deposits indicate high-potential for accumulation of mineral resources. The "known mines and deposits" do not have to be within the area that is being classified, but have to be within the same type of geologic environment.
- ND Mineral(s) potential <u>not determined</u> due to lack of useful data. This notation does not require a level-of-certainty qualifier.

II. Level of Certainty

- A. The available data are insufficient and/or cannot be considered as direct or indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources within the respective area.
- B. The available data provide <u>indirect</u> evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources.
- C. The available data provide <u>direct evidence</u> but are quantitatively minimal to support or refute the possible existence of mineral
- D. The available data provide <u>abundant direct</u> and <u>indirect evidence</u> to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources.

For the determination of <u>No Potential</u> use O/D. This class shall be seldom used, and when used it should be for a specific commodity <u>only</u>. For example, if the available data show that the surface and subsurface types of rock in the respective area is batholithic (igneous intrusive), one can conclude, with reasonable certainty, that the area <u>does not</u> have potential for coal.

* As used in this classification, potential refers to potential for the presence (occurrence) of a concentration of one or more energy and/or mineral resources. It does not refer to or imply potential for development and/or extraction of the mineral resource(s). It does not imply that the potential concentration is or may be economic, that is, be extracted profitably.